

MINUTE RECORD FOR CITY OF ALMA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
April 5, 2017

A meeting of the City Council of the City of Alma, Nebraska was held at the Office of the City Clerk in said city on Wednesday, the 5th day of April, 2017, at 5:30 p.m.

Present were Council Members Mike Clements, Jon Davis, Tom Moulton, Mayor Haeker, and Randy Stahlecker. Also present were: Administrator Doug Wilson, City Attorney Doug Walker, Superintendent Russ Pfeil, Treasurer Lorri Bantam, Library Director Keri Anderson, and Clerk Lori Tripe. Notification of this meeting and the agenda was given in advance by posting, a designated method for giving notice. Advance notice of the meeting and the agenda was given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council. All proceedings hereinafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Mayor Hal Haeker advised the public of the Open Meetings Act which is posted on the east wall of the meeting room, and then proceeded to call the regular meeting of April 5, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. and the following business was transacted:

Roll Call: Mike Clements--present, Jon Davis-present, Tom Moulton-present, Mayor Haeker-present and Randy Stahlecker-present. Motion made by Moulton seconded by Clements to determine this meeting as previously publicized, duly convened and in open session. There being no discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Moulton, Clements, Stahlecker, and Davis. Voting No: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2017, Regular Council Meeting. Motion made by Stahlecker seconded by Moulton to approve the March 15, 2017 regular council minutes as presented. There being no discussion and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Stahlecker, Moulton, Clements and Davis. Voting No: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to discuss the claims and invoices for the period of March 16, 2017, through April 5, 2017 for a total of \$191,527.60. Treasurer Bantam noted payments to Olsson Associates for engineering fees, Elliott Equipment for the used street sweeper which she is going to put "on hold" until they are happy with its performance, payments for the annual audit, clerk's computer, library's computer, and the South Street bond payment. Motion by Moulton, seconded by Davis to approve the March 16, 2017, through April 5, 2017 claims as presented for a total amount of \$191,527.60. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Moulton, Davis, Stahlecker and Clements. Voting No: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to discuss the treasurer's report. Bantam said she will be transferring the quarterly budgeted amounts, she renewed the certificate of deposit at the First State Bank and there was one disconnect this month. Motion made by Clements, seconded by Stahlecker to approve the treasurer's report as presented. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Clements, Stahlecker, Moulton, and Davis. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to Brian Seyler, Fire Chief, to present an annual report of the general condition and the proposed additions or recommended improvements per city code section 32.21 and status of city and rural fire department merger. Chief Seyler said the County Board will vote on the merger of the City and Rural fire departments on April 18th. If it is approved, it will go into effect that day. Then the City fire department will begin the process of transferring the equipment to the rural fire district. They will also get the insurance transferred over. Administrator Wilson said he is in the process of locating the fire department equipment titles.

Currently there are 35 members on the fire department along with one high school cadet. They have 16 EMT's and 6 more are taking EMT classes. The Alma community is VERY fortunate to have so many EMT's and firemen!

Chief Seyler said he would like to go ahead and order the 4 sets of bunker gear that were in the City's budget for 2016-17. Council agreed.

Mayor opened the public hearing at 5:42 PM. The public hearing was opened to hear any comments or

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concerns regarding the filing of a community facility grant application for 15% financial assistance on two heating, ventilation and air conditioning units for the Hoesch Memorial Library. There were no comments or questions. Motion made by Moulton, seconded by Clements to close the public hearing at 5:44 pm and to move forward with the grant application. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Moulton, Clements, Stahlecker and Davis. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

The Mayor opened the floor to consider and possibly approve updates to the City employee handbook regarding salaries-wages, working hours and the emergency phone. Administrator Wilson said he and Russ Pfeil have been reviewing the employee handbook for any necessary changes. Wilson has also done some checking with other similar communities regarding carrying an on-call phone. They recommend the following:

- 1) To allow employee an option of taking compensatory time or overtime pay for the holiday and weekend watch utility checks and to make their choice on their time sheet that day or the time will default to compensatory time.
- 2) To change the amount of accumulated comp time from 240 to 120 hours and to allow 2 years for employees who currently have over 120 hours of accumulated comp time to use their accumulated comp time or mandatory time off will be taken to arrive at the limit.
- 3) To compensate employee \$21 per day for carrying the emergency cell phone. Employee carrying the emergency cell phone on a holiday will not be paid \$21 per day, but instead be paid at the overtime/compensatory time for the 2-hour utility checks and any emergency call outs after the checks are completed. This compensation will be in addition to the 8 hours Holiday pay.
- 4) Remove "summer" from description of working hours for outside staff. Add compensatory time and paid holidays for full time staff will count towards hours worked per week.
- 5) Change the description of "on call cell phone" to "emergency cell phone"
- 6) Add all calls for natural gas leaks and suspected natural gas leaks require investigation.
- 7) If an Emergency situation cannot be handled over the phone to the "caller's" satisfaction, employee MUST STOP what he/she is doing and get the situation resolved.
- 8) Additional personnel should not be called until the weekend watch person is on site, and has assessed the situation.
- 9) Emergency/After Hour calls are paid as per the "overtime (full-time staff)" policy.
- 10) Zero tolerance for alcohol while carrying the emergency cell phone. No drinking nor illegal drugs will be tolerated while carrying the emergency cell phone.
- 11) Any call out after normal weekend checks will be classified as an emergency and paid at overtime rate. One hour minimum and second hour starts after 75 minutes of call beginning. If no physical response is required, it will not be counted as a call out, hence no additional compensation.

They would like these changes to be effective immediately.

Treasurer Bantam said these changes were not budgeted for 2016-17. It would mean an increase in approximately \$2500 for wages.

Motion made by Clements, seconded by Stahlecker to approve the updates to the city employee handbook as presented and to be effective immediately. There being no further discussion upon the motion made, the following voted yes: Clements, Stahlecker, Davis and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to discuss and possibly approve pool manager, assistant managers, lifeguards and swim team coach. There was only 1 application each for the pool manager and swim team coach. A list of names and their positions was included in the council packet to review. Motion made by Stahlecker, seconded by Clements to approve the list of pool manager, assistant managers, lifeguards and swim team coaches as presented. There being no further discussion upon the motion made, the following voted yes: Stahlecker, Clements, Davis and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to discuss and possibly approve Ordinance 2017-3 – sewer rate increase to defray costs of forcemain sewer project. This agenda item was tabled until the next city council meeting and was recommended to remove the reference to the forcemain sewer project.

The next agenda item was to discuss and possibly approve Resolution 14-2017 to authorize the Mayor to execute loan documents with NDEQ to help pay the forcemain sewer project was tabled as well.

Mayor opened the floor to Manny Wolf – Request to rent pool for foundation fundraising event. Manny Wolf said the Foundation has \$650,000 in pledges with \$310,000 being in cash. They have committed to 4 fundraising events per year to raise the awareness of the public that the Foundation is still seeking contributions. She also wanted to thank the City for allowing them to put up a fundraising thermometer at the Johnson Center and to let the City know it is ready to be installed.

The Foundation had an idea to have an adult pool party and host a barbeque contest, along with swimming, a dance and cash bar. They thought maybe the City's fundraising committee for the pool slide would like to combine efforts.

They are checking into "special event" insurance and what would be required to allow alcohol at the event. Lifeguards would be required.

The council would like to keep the alcohol out of the pool area. Manny said there really hasn't been anyone get out of control at any of their fundraising events where alcohol has been served. The event is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Sunday, June 11th.

Wilson suggested the dance be on the east parking lot by the pool. The City has scheduled to armor coat it before the pool opens.

Motion made by Clements, seconded by Davis, to approve the concept of an adult pool party depending on the insurance company's requirements. There being no further discussion upon the motion made, the following voted yes: Clements, Davis, Moulton and Stahlecker. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

The Mayor opened the floor for administrator comments.

Wilson said Larry Steel from Miller & Associates and himself did a run through of the Alma Aquatic Center to review the punch list. There are still several items that are not completed. The items on the list that are not done will not stop the pool from opening but need to be done a week to 10 days before the pool opens. Attorney Walker said he will talk with Roger Cox, the lead counsel. A letter will be drafted and include the updated punch list and give them a completion date of May 10th. The warranty on the pool does not begin until the punch list is complete.

Wilson reported that this Monday the contractor began repairing the roof on the Gruwell property located at 814 East St.

Construction has begun on the forcemain project at the Alma South Bridge. Pipe is laid across the lake bed and they should be tying the new pipe to the old pipe tomorrow.

The City has been working on the "2017 RV PARK Project list" in order to have the RV Park ready to go. The RV Park Manager also has a list of items to be completed before the opening day, April 15th, 2017.

As was mentioned earlier, there are a few issues with the new street sweeper. We are wanting them to fix it before we send them a check.

Wilson has submitted the required ROW paperwork with NDOR.

Scott Prickett, from the Ball Association, requested to speak with the Council about the ball fields but he was not be able to attend. Wilson had forwarded to the Mayor and Council the email received from Scott. The ball association is requesting the city drag and line the ball fields before the games. The games would run from May 18th thru July 4th. It would mostly be during the week. It would only be on the weekend if there was a tournament. This would be for the small fields only. The estimated time to drag and line the field is one and a half hours. The Council and Mayor said it would have to be what will work for the City, if it can be done. The City would propose to use the equipment that is already there. An agreement would need to be written and include who is responsible for what and what equipment will be used and provided by who etc.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to open comments.

Councilman Davis said he will not be able to attend the next council meeting.

Councilman Stahlecker asked what was planned to take care of the wash board on Division Street north of the tracks. Doug Wilson said he has been working with the County on maintaining it.

Mayor Haeker wanted to inform the Council that he has signed a proclamation that the month of April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.


Floyd (Bub) Schippert is concerned about his water utility bill for January, February and March of this year. He has been out of town these past 3 months and had consumption of January-14,000, February-30,000 and March-zero. He's had a plumber check all the toilets, water softener and hydrants. He put in new toilets in 2015.

His history of consumption back in 2016 was zero in January and February and 1000 in March. He has someone come over once a week to water their flowers. He does not understand how that much water could have run thru the meter and does not want to pay the bill.

The meter was installed in 2014. When Bub called the City about the questionable usage, the City checked the meter and the meter was not moving. The Council cannot make a decision tonight but will add Bub to the agenda for the next council meeting.

Community wide cleanup is set for April 22. Russ will order safety glasses. Who puts the ad in the paper, school or City?

Motion made by Davis, seconded by Moulton to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM. There being no further discussion upon the motion made, the following voted yes: Davis, Moulton, Clements and Stahlecker. Voting no: None. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.


Hal Haeker, Mayor

I the undersigned Clerk hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings had and done by the Mayor and Council; that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the Clerk; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the said minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were provided advanced notification of the time place and of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.




Lori Tripe, City Clerk